

September 26, 2006

## **CANDIDATES CAUTIONED ABOUT USE OF PRE-RECORDED MESSAGES**

BISMARCK – With the campaign season swinging into high gear, the Attorney General's office has sent a letter to all candidates for state office reminding them of the state regulations prohibiting pre-recorded telephone calls. The Attorney General's office enforces the law.

State law prohibits the use of pre-recorded messages to anyone, regardless of whether they are on the "do not call list," unless the subscriber has agreed to receive prerecorded messages or a live operator obtains the subscriber's consent before the message is played. Candidates and political parties fall under an exception to the state's do not call laws and may make live but not recorded calls to people who have registered on the do not call list.

"I understand that candidates want to get the message out, but telephone subscribers have complained about pre-recorded messages and find them particularly annoying. Political messages are no exception" said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "As with other violations of the do not call laws, I will vigorously enforce all pre-recorded message violations."

Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection division, said, "Candidates have received solicitations from companies offering campaign marketing services, including pre-recorded messages. The letter to all candidates serves as a reminder that North Dakota's do not call laws, including restrictions on prerecorded messages, will continue to be strictly enforced."

Violations may subject the caller to a fine of up to \$2,000 per violation. Consumers may file a complaint with the Consumer Protection division by calling toll-free 1-800-472-2600 or online at: [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov).